

The following information is submitted in accordance with the referenced requirements to provide current data on Russian law regarding the disposition of remains. The laws cited are from the national law of the Russian Federation

[Federal Law of the Russian Federation #8 dated 01/12/1996 on burial](#) (in Russian)

Primorskiy Kray Law # 332 dated 12/23/2005 on burial
<http://www.zspk.gov.ru/files/laws/3/332/332.pdf> in Russian)

Part I: Name of Country

Russia

Part II: US Consulate General Information

Local Address:	American Consulate General 32 Pushkinskaya Street Vladivostok, Russia, 690001
Local Address in Russian:	Генеральное Консульство США Ул. Пушкинская 32 Владивосток, Россия 690001
Telephone:	(7) (423)230-0070
FAX:	(7) (423)230-0091
After hours phone:	(7) (423)271-0067
E-mail:	vladcons@state.gov
Website:	http://vladivostok.usconsulate.gov

State Department Country Specific Information:
http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1006.html

We encourage American citizens to sign up (register) for the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program with the consulate, in order to obtain updated information on local travel and security. Enrollment is important; it allows the State Department to assist U.S. citizens in the event of an emergency. You do not need to appear in person at the consulate. You may sign up directly online at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>

Part III: Profile of Religions and Religious Services available to Visitors:

Country Profile: Visit the State Department's website [“Background Note: Russia”](#)

Religions: Russian Orthodox, Islam, Judaism, Roman Catholicism, Protestant, Buddhist, other.

There are 324 (37.7%) Russian Orthodox churches, 456 (53%) Protestant churches, and 81 (9.3%) other religious denominations or affiliated churches registered with Ministry of Justice in the Russian Far East.

Part IV: Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in Vladivostok:

The U.S. Consulate General in Vladivostok, Russia assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance.

Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

There are seven morgues in the Vladivostok area. Five of them are attached to hospitals:

City Clinic Hospital #2

57 Russkaya St.
Tel: 7-423-232-6408

Dalzavod Medical Unit

7 Voropayeva St.
Tel: 7-423-263-9405

Far Eastern Medical Center

161 100-let Vladivostoku
Tel: 7-423-231-5429

Forensic Bureau

16 Melnikovskaya St.
Tel: 7-423-245-9601/9855/9956

Kray Clinic Hospital #2

55 Russkaya St.
Tel: 7-423-232-7006

Kray Clinic Hospital #1

17 Pogranichnaya St.
Tel: 7-423-240-0493

Kray Autopsy Bureau

4 Ostryakova St.
[Tel:7-423-245-7466/4996](tel:7-423-245-7466/4996)

Part V: Profile of Services Available in Vladivostok Regarding Preparation and Shipment of Remains:

(1) Maximum Period Before Burial:

There is no maximum period before burial. For practical reasons, however, few area morgues will keep remains for longer than one month without special arrangements. As a rule, mortuaries are located only in the larger cities of the Russian Far East.

(2) Embalming:

There are no requirements for embalming if the remains will be buried locally. Embalming facilities exist in large cities in the consular district. Preparation and air shipment of remains is carried out in accordance with the laws and facilities available in Russia, and, in most cases, the services fall short of those expected in the United States. It is always recommended that the hometown funeral director be requested to determine the advisability of viewing the remains.

(3) Cremation:

Cremation is permitted by national law with the consent of the decedent's relatives. There are 2 crematoria in Vladivostok:

Cremation Services facility in Artyom

4 Tulsкая St.

Tel: 7-423-374-4751

7-423-271-5353

Cremation Services

6 Patrokl

Tel: 7-423-221-1330

(4) Caskets and Containers:

For exportation the remains must be shipped in two boxes: the body is placed in a metal casket which is hermetically sealed, this in turn is placed in a wooden shipping crate.

(5) Exportation of Human Remains:

Remains: To export remains, the following documents are required by the Russian authorities:

- Official Death Certificate from ZAGS (Russian Vital Records Office)
- Certificate of Content (certifying that container is sealed and contains only remains of deceased)
- Medical Certificate from Forensic Bureau of absence of contagious diseases
- Documents issued by the U.S. Consulate General in Vladivostok:
 - Consular Mortuary Certificate
 - Affidavit of Mortician on Encasement
 - Consular Report of Death Abroad (DS-2060)

(6) Exportation of Human Cremains/Ashes:

Ashes: To export cremated remains, the following documents are required by Russian authorities:

- Official Death Certificate from ZAGS
- Proper encasement
- Consular Report of Death Abroad (DS-2060)
- Certificate of Cremation
- Certificate of content (certifying that container is sealed and contains only ashes of deceased)

(7) Costs:

Fees will vary significantly depending upon the services chosen. The exchange rate at the time of preparation of this report was 31.00 R. /1.00 US Dollar.

- cremation, urn, transportation, and air shipment to the United States: 4,500 USD
- preparation and air shipment of the remains to the United States: 7,000 USD

There are no direct flights from Vladivostok to the United States. Prices can increase if the remains are transported from other areas within the consular district to Vladivostok. The total cost can easily approach 9,000 USD.

(8) Exhumation and Shipment:

There is no time limit for exhumation after burial. Interested family members must submit an application requesting exhumation to the City Administration and the Prosecutor's office.

(9) Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services

Usually a funeral includes a funeral ceremony, burial in a grave or cremation of the deceased, a wake and a periodic memorial service. Local customs depend on religion.

(10) Remarks:

Autopsy Requirements

In accordance with Russian law, an autopsy is required if criminal circumstances are suspected. Autopsies are performed only by state pathologists. An autopsy may be waived upon request of the next-of-kin if police do not suspect foul play. Russian authorities normally require a letter from the consulate either relaying the relatives' permission to do an autopsy or their request that one not be performed. Normally an autopsy must be performed in order to list a specific cause of death on the medical death record. If an autopsy is not performed, the Russian medical death record will indicate that the cause of death is unknown. If relatives object to an autopsy being performed, Russian authorities will spend several days completing necessary paperwork. Obtaining complete autopsy results can take several months. This can be mailed to the next of kin once the consulate receives it. Extra fees can be charged for a full autopsy report. The full autopsy report will be in Russian. If an English translation is desired, families may find that it is easier and less expensive to have the document translated in the United States rather than attempting to obtain a translation in Vladivostok.

Options for in-country transportation

Those firms making transportation and shipping arrangements prefer to send their own representative to the local mortuary to reduce delay, as well as to make sure that the embalming and encasement are performed properly, and that the official Russian death certificate is obtained from the local administration.

Local Law Governing Disposal of Personal Effects

Russian law provides for a six month waiting period before effects can be released to the next of kin. This period is calculated to give time to other potential heirs (both foreigners and locals) or their official representatives to claim rights to the effects. During these six months the home of the deceased American is supposed to remain locked and sealed by a local notary and the keys kept at a local police station. The U.S. consulate has not experienced serious delays in taking custody of the deceased's effects and the full six month waiting time has not been observed.